

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed August 31, 2007, claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-24 and 26-28 were finally rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Cheline et al. US Patent Publication No. 2003/0041136 ("Cheline").

Claims 6, 16 and 25 were finally rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Cheline in view of Nguyen et al. US Patent Publication No. 2003/0172145 ("Nguyen").

In this amendment, Applicant has cancelled claims 1-28 to obviate the prior art rejections and has added claims 29-54.

In a clear departure from the prior art, claims 29-54 recite novel approaches to VPN security that reduce vulnerability of a VPN protected network to attack by an end system. These novel approaches involve, for example, continuous monitoring, write prevention and redirection, traffic filtering and memory purging by an end system to reduce the risk that the end system will become infected by malicious code and prevent any infection the end system experiences from spreading to the VPN protected network.

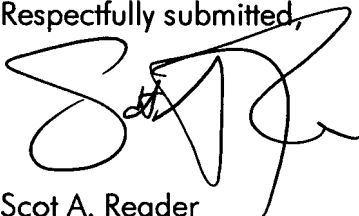
Cheline alone or in combination with Nguyen and other art of record does not teach or suggest these novel approaches to VPN security. For example, there is no teaching or suggestion in the art of record, while permitting access by an end system to a VPN protected network on at least one VPN connection, to continuously monitor on the end system for attempted writes to the end system and prevent detected attempted writes to permanent memory on the end system, continuously monitor on the end system for traffic on the end system and filter detected traffic inbound to the end system that is not on the VPN connection and continuously monitor on the end system for

termination of the VPN connection and purge temporary memory on the end system in response to detected termination of the VPN connection. Additionally, there is no teaching or suggestion in the art of record to redirect to temporary memory detected attempted writes to permanent memory as part of continuous monitoring of attempted writes to the end system. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in the art of record to filter detected traffic outbound from the end system that is not on the VPN connection as part of continuous monitoring of traffic on the end system.

In view of the foregoing, consideration and favorable action on all claims are respectfully requested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Should any question remain in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SAR' with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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